

**HEAT TREATMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS USED THEREFOR**

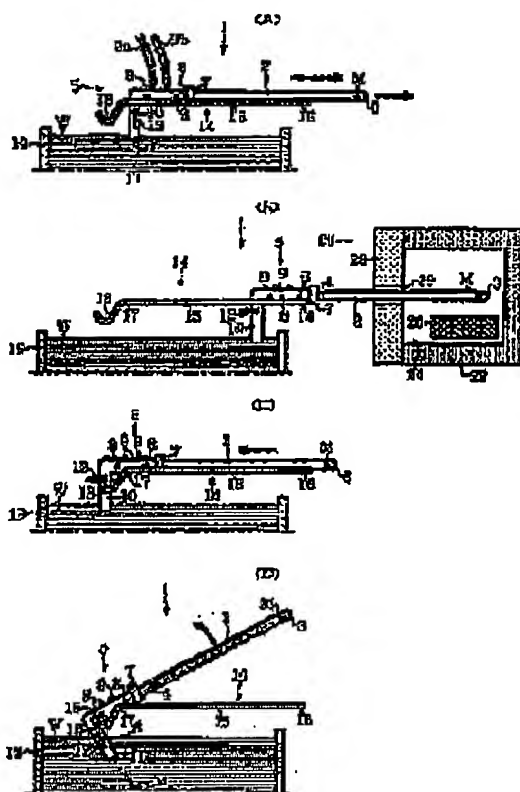
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**Abstract of JP2002249821**

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a heat treatment method capable of continuously performing the heating and quenching of a work in a short time in a vacuum condition, and a heat treatment apparatus used therefor.

**SOLUTION:** This heat treatment method includes a step of heating a quartz tube 2 which is kept in a vacuum or inert gas atmosphere with a work M sealed therein, a step of transferring the work M heated to the predetermined temperature into water (cooling medium) W and hardening it therein. The heat treatment device 1 includes the quartz tube 2 which receives the work M and keeps the inside of the tube in a vacuum or inert gas atmosphere, a guide and tilting means comprising a guide pin 8 and a guide rail 14 which can bring close and detach this quartz tube 2 to/from a heat treatment furnace (heating source) 20, and tilt the quartz tube 2 along the vertical direction when detached from the heat treatment furnace 20, and a water tank (a cooling medium accommodation part) 19.



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